

Claims:

What is claimed is:

1 **1.** A method for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of
2 individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS), said Web site using the Hyper
3 Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), said method comprising the steps of:

4 in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

5 issuing instructions to said NCS;

6 receiving said instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and

7 complying with said received instructions.

1 **2.** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of issuing instructions includes the
2 step of:

3 passing said instructions to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, said passing
4 step further including the steps of:

5 including directives to be obeyed by said NCS; and

6 optionally including a filter to limit the scope of application of said directive.

1 **3.** The method according to claim 2 wherein said directives includes:

2 flow-control directives;

3 sharing directives; and

4 NCS-queuing directives.

1 **4.** The method according to claim 3 wherein said flow-control directives include:
2 an increase-rate directive to require said NCS to increase the rate at which requests to
3 said any one server are sent;
4 a decrease-rate directive to require said NCS to decrease the rate at which requests to
5 said any one server are sent;
6 an increase-window directive to require said NCS to increase the number of jobs
7 allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server; and
8 a decrease-window directive to require said NCS to decrease the number of jobs
9 allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server.

1 **5.** The method according to claim 4 wherein said sharing directives include:
2 a share directive aimed at enabling an information sharing within all members of said
3 plurality of individual servers and said NCS; and
4 a clear directive aimed at clearing a previous said information sharing.

1 **6.** The method according to claim 5 wherein said NCS-queuing directives include:
2 a lock directive aimed at locking resources identified by said filter; and
3 an unlock directive aimed at releasing previously locked said resources.

1 **7.** A system, in particular a Network Control Scheduler comprising means adapted for
2 carrying out the method according to claim 6.

1 **8.** A computer readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out the
2 method according to claim 7.

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